

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 03153 270118Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 AID-05 MCT-02 /064 W
-----080592 270129Z /13

O 270039Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1755
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3153

E.O. 11642: GDS

TAGS: PINT, NU, CR

SUBJECT: NICARAGUS AND COSTA RICA

REF: (A) MANAGUA 3361 (B) MANAGUA 3386

1. VJ PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT CARAZO JULY 18 AT HOME OF FONMIN'S MOTHER, I RAISED AGAIN THE TROUBLED NICARAGUAN SITUATION AND REPPEATED OUR CONCERN LEST COSTA RICAN BECOME EMBROILED BECAUSE OF LOCALLY-BASED SANDINISTA ACTIVITY. I AGAIN ENCOURAGED CARAZO TO SPARE NO EFFORT OT MAKE GON-GOCR COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS PROBLEM FULL AND FREE.

2. PRIOR TO RECEIPT REF (B), DURING A CALL ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER AFTERNOON JULY 26, I RAISED THE SAME ISSUE AGAIN WIMY CALDERON BECAUSE OF THE LOS SABALOS AND EL CASTILLO ATTACKS, STRESSING THE NEED FOR CLOSE CONTACT TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS. AS HE HAD IN PAST DISCUSSION, AGAIN CALDERON REJECTED EMPHATICALLY THE REPEATED SUGGESTIONS FROM NICARAGUAN SOURCES THAT THE GOCR IS INDIFFERENT TO SUCH INCIDENTS. ON THE CONTRARY, HE INSISTED THAT THE CARAZO GOVERNMENT, UNLIKE ITS PREDECESSORS, HAS DELIVERED TO THE GON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN JO 03153 270118Z

A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF ITS EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE USE OF COSTA RICA AS A BASE FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. PRIMARY AMONG THESE EFFORTS, HE NOTED WAS THE CAPTURE AND EXPULSION OF 14 FSLN MEMBERS IN LATE JUNE.

3. CALDERON POINTED OUT THAT IN ADDITION TO HIS RECENT PERSONAL VISIT TO MANAGUA, HE HIMSELF HAD FACILITATED

DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN THE NICARAGUAN DEFENSE MINISTRY AND THE COSTA RICAN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR THIS PAST WEEK-END. THERE IS A PROBLEM HE ACKNOWLEDGED, IN THAT HE, THANKS TO HISTORICAL RELATIONS OF HIS FAMILY WITH SOMOZA, IS THE ONLY GOCR OFFICIAL THAT SOMOZA APPEARS TO TRUST. (IN MY CONVERSATION WITH CARAZO LAST WEEK HE CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD SENT THE FONMIN TO MANAGUA PRECISELY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT HE.) THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT HE IS WORKING AT FURTHER INSTITUTIONALIZING MORE DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS AT OPERATIONAL LEVELS, AND ASSURED ME THAT COOPERATION AND VIGILANCE WOULD CONTINUE.

4. FROM THESE AND OTHER RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH INTERIOR MINISTER ECHEVERRIA, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE GOCR IS FULLY AWARE OF THE PROBLEM. BASED ON ANALYSIS OF THEIR OWN INTERESTS, BOTH CARAZO AND CALDERON HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY THAT THEY ARE IN NO WAY ANXIOUS TO SEE SOMOZA TOPPLED AT THIS TIME, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THEIR ESTIMATE OF LIKELY ALTERNATIVES. IF IT COULD EFFECTIVELY SEAL ITS BORDERS TO THE SANDINISTAS, INCLUDING ITS DIFFICULT CONTIGUOUS ONE, DISPIE POPULAR ANTIPATHY TO THE SOMOZA REGIME, THE GOCR WOULD. IT HAS NO SUCH CAPABILITY, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE CURRENT LOW STATE OF ITS SECURITY FORCES. AS THE FONMIN PUT IT JULY 26, "WHEN A SANDINISTA CROSSES OUR BORDER, HE ALSO CROSSES THE NICARAGUAN BORDER. CAN THEY STOP HIM?"
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN JO 03153 270118Z

5. I WILL BE HAPPY TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH CARAZO AGAIN AND AGAIN IN TERMS OF OUR CONCERN FOR GOCR WELFARE AND REGIONAL TRANQUILITY, BUT FROM THE USG POINT OF VIEW, IF SOMOZA IS TRULY UNAWARE OF THE GOCR POSITION, AND, AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL, CATEGORICAL IN HIS INTENT TO AUTHORIZE THE GN TO ENGAGE IN HOT PURSUIT, I BELIEVE THIS IS A MESSAGE HE MIGHT BEST DELIVER DIRECTLY TO THE GOCR, PERSONALLY OR THROUGH HIS FONMIN OR GON AMBASSADOR LACAYO.
WEISSMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANJO03153
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780307-0401
Format: TEL
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780714/aaaaalhv.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2230d76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANAGUA 3361, 78 MANAGUA 3386
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1867181
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NICARAGUS AND COSTA RICA
TAGS: PINT, MOPS, PEPR, NU, CR, FSLN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2230d76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014